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WATTLED PLOVER IN CENTRAL TANZANIA The patchy distribution of the Wattled Plover *Vanellus senegallus* in Tanzania has recently been described by Reynolds (1977), Beesley (1977) and Dowsett (1977). I have two records of this bird on the Ilinde *mbuga* (5°57'S., 35°32'E.) which is 35 km north-west of Dodoma in central Tanzania. This *mbuga* is in a sparsely populated part of the central plateau where there is little human disturbance. As a result it holds a highly diverse avifauna especially during the rains, when about 100 species can regularly be seen in a single day. This *mbuga*, at an altitude of 975 m, is 8 km long and has a maximum width of 2 km. It is best approached from the Dodoma - Bahi road at Kilometre 35, along the track past the Msembeta *mbuga*.

The first sighting was of a solitary male (12.2.56) and the second was of two birds (27.1.57, sex not recorded). On both occasions large parts of the *mbuga* were under water and there were several Crowned Lapwings *V. coronatus* and a few Blacksmith Plovers *V. armatus* in the immediate vicinity. Several visits were made to this locality in the dry season when the black-cotton soil of the floor of the *mbuga* was dry and hard. No plovers of any species were seen on these occasions.

Both *coronatus* and *armatus* occur throughout the year in the Bahi swamp (40 km SW of Ilinde; 775 m) and in the Makutupora swamp (25 km E of Ilinde; 1100 m) and presumably breed. In neither place have I seen *senegallus* although it might well breed in such habitats where permanent water is present in most years. The Wattled Plover appears to require wet environments more than many other plovers, which perhaps accounts for the occasional use of mud in its nest (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1957). Its occurrence in Ilinde and in the paddy fields around Tabora (Reynolds 1968), where it is a rainy-season migrant, are comparable.

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